



# AG UPDATE

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## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER NOVEMBER 2004

Production of red meat in **Colorado** during November 2004 totaled 149.2 million pounds, 19 percent above the same month last year but 12 percent below October 2004. **Beef** slaughter was up 13 percent from a year ago to 175,100 head and the average live weight increased 48 pounds to 1,284. **Hog** slaughter declined 10 percent to 900 head and the average live weight decreased 20 pounds to 259. **Accumulated production** of all red meat for the January-November 2004 period totaled 1.83 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the 1.84 billion pounds produced during the same period in 2003.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.77 billion pounds in November, up 7 percent from the 3.53 billion pounds produced in November 2003. **Beef production**, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.54 million head, up 4 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was up 35 pounds from the previous year, at 1,271 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 13.8 million pounds, 9 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,000 head, down 13 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was 14 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.80 billion pounds, a new monthly record, and was up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.96 million head, 4 percent above November 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 16.5 million pounds, was up 1 percent from November 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,100 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 2 pounds from November a year ago.

### January to November 2004 commercial red meat production

was 41.5 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

### Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

Area and Specie	Nov. 2003	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2004	January-November	
				2003	2004
<b>Million Pounds</b>					
<b>Colorado: . . . . .</b>	125.3	168.9	149.2	1,841.2	1,831.1
<b>United States: . . . . .</b>	3,533.0	3,921.0	3,771.0	42,692.0	41,485.0
Beef . . . . .	1,783.0	2,114.0	1,943.0	24,261.0	22,506.0
Veal . . . . .	15.2	12.4	13.8	172.7	152.2
Pork . . . . .	1,718.0	1,779.0	1,797.0	18,077.0	18,650.0
Lamb & Mutton	16.3	16.3	16.5	181.7	176.8

<sup>1/</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

## CATTLE ON FEED DECEMBER 1, 2004

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,100,000 head as of December 1, 2004. The latest inventory was up 1 percent from November 1, 2004 and up 4 percent from the 1,060,000 on feed on December 1, 2003. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 155,000 head of fed cattle during November 2004. This was 16 percent below October 2004 marketings of 185,000 head and 6 percent below a year ago. An estimated 175,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during November, 5 percent below a year ago and 33 percent below October 2004 placements of 260,000. Of the number placed in October, 34 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 31 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 20 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 14 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for November, at 10,000 head, was the same last year but 5,000 head above October 2004.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above December 1, 2003 and 4 percent above December 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.74 million, 10 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002. This is the lowest placements for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.64 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 590,000, 600-699 pounds were 557,000, 700-799 pounds were 326,000, and 800 pounds and greater were

270,000. Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.63 million, 6 percent above 2003 but 6 percent below 2002. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 108,000 during November, 11 percent above 2003 and 20 percent above 2002.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States,  
1,000 Plus Capacity, Nov. 1 to Dec. 1, 2003-2004**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<b>1,000 head</b>			
On Feed Nov. 1	1,050	1,090	11,043	11,334
Placements During Nov.	185	175	1,926	1,743
< 600 pounds	72	60	680	590
600 - 699 Pounds	45	55	578	557
700 - 799 Pounds	40	35	379	326
800 Plus Pounds	28	25	289	270
Marketings During Nov.	165	155	1,537	1,625
Other Disap. During Nov.	10	10	97	108
On Feed Dec 1.	1,060	1,100	11,335	11,344

**HOG AND PIG INVENTORY  
DECEMBER 1, 2004**

Colorado's December 1, 2004 inventory of all hogs and pigs, at 800,000 head, increased 7 percent from a year ago and was up 13 percent from the September 2004 total. The **breeding hog** inventory of 140,000 head increased 4 percent from December 1, 2003 but was unchanged from September 2004. The **market hog** inventory for December 1, 2004 was 660,000 head, up 7 percent from a year earlier and up 16 percent from September 1, 2004.

Colorado's 2004 **pig crop** of 2.39 million head was unchanged from 2003. There were 287,000 sows farrowed during the December 2003 through November 2004 time period compared with 282,000 sows farrowed during the comparable period a year earlier. The 2004 average litter size was 8.31 pigs this year, down from 8.49 pigs per litter in 2003.

**U.S. inventory** of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004 was 60.5 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2003, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2004. **Breeding inventory**, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2003, but up slightly from last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 54.5 million head, was up slightly from last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

**The September-November 2004 U.S. pig crop**, at 25.6 million head, was up slightly from 2003 and up 2 percent from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, down slightly from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.96 for the September-November period, compared to 8.93 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

**U.S. hog producers** intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the December 2004-February 2005 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in 2004, and 3 percent above 2003. Intended farrowings for March-May 2005,

at 2.87 million sows, are down slightly from the same period in 2004, and down 1 percent from the same period in 2003. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

**Revisions:** All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2003 through September 2004 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, small revisions, not exceeding one-half of one percent were made to the June 2004 total inventory, March-May 2004 pig crop, December-February 2004 pig crop, September-November 2003 pig crop, June-August 2003 pig crop and the September 2003 total inventory. Adjustments of less than one-tenth of one percent were made to the remaining quarters.

**Hogs and Pigs, December 1, 2003-2004**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<b>1,000 Head</b>			
All Hogs & Pigs . . .	750	800	60,444	60,501
Kept for breeding .	135	140	6,009	5,969
Market . . . . .	615	660	54,434	54,531
Under 60 lbs . . . .	340	355	19,778	19,636
60-119 lbs . . . . .	70	100	13,238	13,439
120-179 lbs . . . .	70	75	11,109	11,286
180 lbs. & over . .	135	130	10,311	10,171
Sows Farrowed <u>1/</u> .	282	287	11,429	11,445
Pigs per litter <u>1/</u> . . .	8.49	8.31	8.88	8.94
Pig Crop <u>1/</u> . . . . .	2,393	2,385	101,490	102,305

1/ Annual: December previous year - November current year

**CHICKENS AND EGGS  
NOVEMBER 2004**

Colorado laying flocks produced 88 million eggs during November 2004, down 4 percent from a month earlier and 6 percent below the 94 million eggs produced during November 2003. The number of layers during November 2004 totaled 3.97 million, down 1 percent from both a year earlier and the previous month. The average rate of lay for November 2004, at 2,217 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,344 eggs per 100 layers during November 2003 and 2,291 for October 2004.

Egg production for the **United States** totaled 7.28 billion during November 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 968 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2003 averaged 336 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,165 eggs, up one percent from November 2002.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# AGRICULTURAL PRICES

## DECEMBER 15, 2004

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers** in December, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points below the November Index. The Crop Index is down 8 points (7.1 percent) from November while the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, dairy, eggs, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, oranges, corn, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, tobacco, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, grapes, and soybeans. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from December 2003.

The **December All Crops Index** is 104, down 7.1 percent from November and 9.6 percent below the December 2003 index. The all wheat price, at \$3.38 per bushel, is down 8 cents from the November price and 30 cents below last December. The corn price, at \$1.99 per bushel, is down 6 cents from November and is 32 cents below last year's December price. The all hay price, at \$84.30 per ton, is down \$1.90 from last month but \$3.90 above December 2003. The soybean price, at \$5.41 per bushel, increased 5 cents from November but decreased \$1.76 from the December 2003 price. The all potato price, at \$5.10 per cwt, is up 6 cents from the previous month but 67 cents below last December. The all dry bean price, at \$27.10 per cwt, is up \$1.30 from last month and \$9.70 above December 2003.

The December **Livestock and Products Index**, at 120, is up 0.8 percent from last month and up 7.1 percent from December 2003. The December hog price of \$54.50 per cwt is down \$1.20 from November but up \$20.30 from a year ago. The December beef cattle price of \$86.80 is up \$1.70 from last month but down \$3.60 from December 2003. The December all milk price of \$16.50 per cwt is up \$0.40 from last month and up \$2.70 from December 2003.

### Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2003		2004	
	Nov.	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.
	<b>Percent</b>			
Prices Received .....	116	114	115	112
Prices Paid .....	129	129	134	134
Ratio <sup>1/</sup> .....	90	88	86	84

<sup>1/</sup> Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.

**Colorado's** December 2004 crop prices averaged higher than a year earlier for all items except wheat, corn and other hay. All livestock prices averaged above a year ago except cows. Mid-December 2004 wheat, at \$3.22 per bushel, decreased 13 cents from the previous month and was 40 cents below December a year ago. Corn prices decreased 46 cents from November to \$1.96 per bushel and averaged 38 cents below December 2003. The all barley price increased 11 cents from November to \$3.10 per bushel and was 23 cents above December 2003. Potatoes were 5 cents above November at \$4.85 per cwt and averaged 10 cents per cwt above the \$4.75 per cwt received in December 2003. Dry bean prices averaged \$28.80 per cwt in December, up 10 cents from the previous month and \$12.70 above the same

month in 2003. Mid-December 2004 alfalfa hay prices unchanged from the previous month at \$86.00 but increased 1.00 per ton from a year ago. Other hay prices were unchanged from the previous month at \$81.00 but decreased \$9.00 from December 2003. Steer and heifer prices, at \$106.00 per cwt, decreased \$4.00 per cwt from November but were \$5.00 per cwt above December 2003. December 2004 cow prices, at \$48.60 per cwt, averaged \$1.00 per cwt below November but \$3.20 below December a year ago. Calves, at \$126.00 per cwt, were \$1.00 lower than the previous month but \$8.00 per cwt above December 2003.

### Average Prices Received By Farmers <sup>1/</sup>

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Dec. 2003	Nov. 2004	Dec. 2004
<b>Dollars</b>				
<b>Crops</b>				
Wheat .....	Bu.	3.62	3.35	3.22
Corn .....	Bu.	2.34	2.42	1.96
Barley (All) .....	Bu.	2.87	2.99	3.10
Potatoes .....	Cwt	4.75	4.80	4.85
Dry edible beans .....	Cwt	16.10	28.70	28.80
Alfalfa hay (baled) ....	Ton	85.00	86.00	86.00
Other hay (baled) .....	Ton	90.00	81.00	81.00
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>				
Beef Cattle .....	Cwt	101.00	109.00	105.00
Steers & heifers .....	Cwt	101.00	110.00	106.00
Cows .....	Cwt	51.80	49.60	48.60
Calves .....	Cwt	118.00	127.00	126.00
Sheep .....	Cwt	41.00	43.00	<sup>2/</sup>
Lambs .....	Cwt	98.60	98.90	<sup>2/</sup>
<b>United States</b>				
<b>Dollars</b>				
<b>Crops</b>				
Wheat .....	Bu.	3.68	3.46	3.38
Corn .....	Bu.	2.31	2.05	1.99
Soybeans .....	Bu.	7.17	5.36	5.41
Barley (All) .....	Bu.	2.93	2.51	2.46
Barley (Feed) .....	Bu.	2.26	1.78	1.61
Sorghum .....	Cwt	4.20	3.06	2.94
Potatoes .....	Cwt	5.77	5.04	5.10
Dry edible beans .....	Cwt	17.40	25.80	27.10
Alfalfa hay (baled) ....	Ton	87.00	94.00	92.40
Other hay (baled) .....	Ton	66.50	67.80	67.10
Onions .....	Cwt	12.70	9.47	9.42
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>				
Beef Cattle .....	Cwt	90.40	85.10	86.80
Steers & heifers .....	Cwt	95.60	90.20	91.90
Cows .....	Cwt	49.20	48.90	48.70
Calves .....	Cwt	112.00	124.00	121.00
Sheep .....	Cwt	45.10	41.50	<sup>2/</sup>
Lambs .....	Cwt	97.70	101.00	<sup>2/</sup>
Hogs .....	Cwt	34.20	55.70	54.50
Milk sold to plants ....	Cwt	13.80	16.10	16.50
Broilers .....	Lb.	0.380	0.390	0.390

<sup>1/</sup> Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

<sup>2/</sup> Mid-month prices discontinued.

*(Continued from page 2)*

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2003, totaled 338 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2004, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.98 billion eggs during November 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 321 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

## COLD STORAGE NOVEMBER 30, 2004

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 2004 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, beef, eggs, orange juice and cheese. Butter stocks were down 45 percent from last month and down 52 percent from a year ago.

**Total red meat supplies** in freezers were up 1 percent from last month and up 9 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 1 percent from last month, but down 2 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 113 percent from last month and up 3 percent from last year.

**Total frozen poultry supplies** on November 30, 2004 were 17 percent below the previous month, but 15 percent above a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 4 percent from the previous month, but up 35 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 38 percent from last month and down 16 percent from November 30, 2003.

**Public cooler occupancy** on November 30, 2004, was at 50 percent of capacity, up 7 points from last year. Public freezer occupancy, was at 61 percent, up 4 points from last year.

## Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 2003	Oct. 31, 2004	Nov. 30, 2004
	<b>1,000 Pounds</b>		
Butter . . . . .	122,544	107,152	59,363
Cheese, total natural . . .	695,541	756,171	706,977
Eggs, frozen . . . . .	14,909	17,877	17,235
Poultry, total frozen . . .	921,767	1,280,993	1,063,586
Chicken . . . . .	569,268	801,953	768,850
Turkey . . . . .	350,668	478,217	294,156
Fruits, frozen . . . . .	1,107,053	1,187,735	1,097,732
Fruit Juices, frozen . . . .	1,732,096	1,899,342	1,762,352
Vegetables, total frozen	2,395,004	2,573,933	2,405,078
Potatoes, total frozen . .	1,232,817	1,275,752	1,221,945
Meats, total red . . . . .	828,066	892,946	900,016
Beef, total frozen . . . .	373,770	452,589	455,939
Pork, total frozen . . . .	438,940	426,775	431,104

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Stocks in space owned or leased by the Armed Forces are excluded. Food stocks held under bond are included in the storage data.

## UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

- Jan. 12 - Crop Production - Annual
- Jan. 12 - Grain Stocks
- Jan. 12 - Winter Wheat Seeding - 2005 Crop
- Jan. 14 - Potato Stocks
- Jan. 18 - Milk Production
- Jan. 21 - Cattle On Feed
- Jan. 21 - Livestock Slaughter
- Jan. 25 - Fruit Crops - Annual
- Jan. 28 - Vegetables - Annual

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